

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 525

By Ketron

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Bart Walker upon winning Leadership Rutherford's 2011 Pinnacle Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Bart Walker, who recently won Leadership Rutherford's 2011 Pinnacle Award in recognition of his invaluable contributions to the broadcasting industry and his dedicated service to the community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Walker will accept his award at the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce's "Business at Its Best" conference on February 3, 2012; and

WHEREAS, the simple Christmas gift of a tape recorder first ignited Bart Walker's passion for radio in the third grade, at which point he eagerly recorded shows for a limited audience; his patronage grew a few years later, when he built a small radio station in his bedroom and began broadcasting programs blocks from his home; and

WHEREAS, his unflagging interest in the medium landed him a job at a Nashville FM station, where he played tapes and records on Saturday nights, and later led to a job at WLAC-FM, where he pulled news from the wire service and enjoyed the mentoring of broadcasting legends like John R., Hoss Allen, and Herman Grizzard; and

WHEREAS, from these humble beginnings, Mr. Walker is now owner and operator of the local WGNS radio station, holds the longest tenure of the Good Neighbor Station's four owners, with twenty-eight years on the job, and happily shares his love of radio with his son, Scott; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his work with WGNS, Bart Walker has volunteered his time and talent to the community, serving as chair for the local Heart of Tennessee Red Cross

Chapter during Hurricane Katrina, CrimeStoppers of Rutherford County, the Tennessee Association of Broadcasters. A former member of the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce board of directors and the St. Clair Street Senior Center's commission, he currently serves as president of the Murfreesboro Rotary Club; and

WHEREAS, an active and devout Christian, he is also an elder for the First Presbyterian Church in Murfreesboro; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Walker epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Bart Walker shares his many accomplishments and recent victory with his loving and supportive wife of forty-five years, Lee Ann; their two children: Scott Walker and Kristin Carlton; and their three grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Bart Walker for his dedication to the broadcasting industry and the community at large; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Bart Walker upon winning Leadership Rutherford's 2011 Pinnacle Award and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.